

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP
April 24, 2012**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room, 250 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Kotkin, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager; Mike Turner, Town Engineer; Leslie Cole, Chairman CIAC; Lori Schroll, Financial Analyst; Susan Smith, Finance Director; Brian O'Conner, Building Official; Peter Gillespie, Director of Planning and Economic Development; Fire Marshal Anthony Dignoti; Assistant Chief Bailey

Absent: Councilors Manousos, McAlister

Chairperson Hemmann called the special meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Brian O'Conner, Building Official, and Lori Schroll Financial Analyst presented the Building Department Budget. A presentation was handed out to the Councilors.

PLANNING

Peter Gillespie and Lori Schroll presented the Planning Budget.

ENGINEERING

Mike Turner and Lori Schroll presented the Engineering Budget. Les Cole, Chairman of the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee joined them to go over the capital improvements. Ms. Schroll reported that there were no changes in the number of personnel but mentioned that the salary line increased due to wage agreements and steps. She noted that overtime was set aside for pavement maintenance, line stripping of streets and town-owned sidewalk maintenance. A discussion then ensued regarding bids for the repair work. Ms. Schroll stated that CIP also included a repair for slate sidewalks in Old Wethersfield. She commented that we need to maintain what we have and be creative with the repairs. She also reported that training and dues along with licenses for staff have increased due to the governor's budget. Additionally, office machine and services and the cost of supplies have gone up as well. Ms. Schroll pointed out that the IT licenses are now in IT and not in Engineering. Other items discussed included property

issues at Morrison Avenue, a neighbor dispute regarding driveway seepage, road pavement projects, and the significant role that Engineering will have in the high school renovation.

CIP

Les Cole, Chairperson of CIAC presented the CIP budget. Mr. Cole spoke of potential plans for the Wethersfield High School tennis courts and the cost associated to repair one or both of them. They discussed the Webb playscape and the broken pipes under the playground that serve to drain wastewater from surrounding homes. They also made note of items that have fallen off the list such as the boiler at Emerson Williams and Hanmer and noted other items that still need to be completed. A discussion then ensued regarding the lighting along Main Street going to the cove and the system-wide drainage issues from Murphy Pond and Bell Pond. They stated that they are waiting on bond money and that the town funds are already in place.

FIRE MARSHALL

Fire Marshall Dignoti reported that he added several thousand dollars for his part time position and requested \$5,000, plus what they already have \$10,000 to help for code inspections. He stated that the Wethersfield High School is hard to keep up with and that there is a lot of work for him with maintaining safety in the building. He also discussed the need for fire inspections throughout the Wethersfield High School renovation and how that should be addressed. He noted that while training and dues costs have increased, the cost of equipment went down. A discussion then ensued regarding the purchase of communicators for the fire alarm equipment project, the increased numbers of workers compensation claims, and the rate change for certain categories. Mr. Dignoti also reported on such items as the alarm monitoring equipment and the decline in false alarms in larger buildings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Flynn, Assistant Chief Bailey, and Deputy Chief Schroll presented the Budget for the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department. They reported the need to have the rooftop air conditioner replaced and noted that the surplus of clothing and boots that they once had to outfit the firefighters is now depleted. Discussion then ensued regarding the value of the volunteer fire department and how much it saves the town. Firefighter salaries, benefits, and positions were briefly discussed. It was mentioned that the truck specs have now been completed, and a meeting with public safety will be scheduled. Also, electricity use is not as low as other departments and Rae Ann Palmer will look into it. It was also reported that Firehouse 2 is still using oil and that Company 1 had just switched over to natural gas. Revisit, \$12,000 increase in salary line, \$4,000 for each company go towards with \$7 per call. How many will it cover, 85 people. How long at \$6 pay per call - 6 years.

TOWN CLERK

Dolores Sassano, presented the Town Clerk's budget

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:04 p.m., Deputy Mayor Console moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING,**" seconded by Chairman Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by Vote of Council
May 7, 2012